(c) to (e) From 1.8.2007 to 22.10.2008, Air India's new Boeing 777-200LR and 777-300ER aircraft have done 3782 takes off and only three technical incidents have been reported, which counts for 0.08 technical incidents per hundred takes off. In the smoke incident, Air India has observed that the affected Seat Electronics Boxes are Thales 15000 IFE system components and located below Seat Groups in the Aft area where the aircraft contour narrows down. In this narrowed section, the width of seat-group reduced. Boeing in conjunction with Thales have come out with a solution in modifying the Seat Electronics Boxes to include a thermal fuse which would cut off power before emanating smoke, changing the potting material of the inductor and changing the existing capacitor to polymer micro capacitor.

Boeing will incorporate the above modifications on all the new B777 aircraft which are to be delivered to Air India from April 2009 onwards and the modification on the existing aircraft will be carried out by Air India on receipt of modification Service Bulletin from Boeing.

Cooch Behar Airport

1576. SHRI TARINI KANTA ROY : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Cooch Behar Airport is ready for commercial operations; and

(b) if so, the time frame for commercial operation of Cooch Behar Airport?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Cooch Behar Airport is ready to accept commercial operations with a prior notice of ten days. However, it is upto the commercial decision of various airlines to operate scheduled services to and from Cooch Behar.

Financial crisis of domestic airline companies

1577. SHRI PRAKASH JAVADEKAR: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that most of the domestic airline companies are facing huge financial crisis on account of soaring jet fuel prices and that domestic carriers are operating at a very high cost investment which is not sustainable;

(b) whether Government has plans to bail-out the domestic aviation industry; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) The Government has taken various steps to help the domestic aviation industry which *inter-alia* are as under:

(1) Custom duty on import of ATF has been abolished.

(2) The State Governments are being persuaded to reduce the sales tax on ATF. Government of Andhra Pradesh and in certain cases Government of Rajasthan have reduced the sales tax on ATF

to 4%. Government of Maharashtra has also reduced sales tax on ATF from 25% to 4% for flights originating from airports other than Pune and Mumbai.

(3) The Oil Companies have also staggered the settlement of outstanding dues of Airline Companies over six months. Oil Companies have also extended the credit period.

(4) With the fall in global crude prices, the Oil Companies have been reducing ATF prices since September, 2008 and the prices are being revised fortnightly instead of monthly.

Medical centres at airport terminals

1578. MS. MABEL REBELLO :
SHRI B.J. PANDA :

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is proposed to set up medical centres at airport terminals in the country; and

(b) if so, the details thereof, *inter-alia* indicating such medical facilities that are proposed to be set up at the Airports in Orissa and Jharkhand?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) For emergency treatment and first aid, the airports have medical inspection rooms. These facilities are maintained either by the airports themselves or by reputed local nursing homes/hospitals or by the concerned State Governments.

At Ranchi Airport (Jharkhand), the medical facilities are provided by the State Government whereas that at Bhubneshwar Airport (Orissa) is being arranged through local hospitals/nursing homes. Bhubneshwar Airport is presently having first-aid facilities.

Terminal building works at non-metro airports

1579. DR. JANARDHAN WAGHMARE : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has decided to hand over terminal building works of the country's non-metro airports to the public-private partnership;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Airports Authority of India (AAI) have been ignored in allocating the task of non-metro airport terminal work;

(d) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(e) the corrective steps Government proposes to take in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) to (d) The development of Terminal Building at all the non-metro airports is being undertaken by the Airports Authority of India.

(e) Does not arise.